

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A ribbon-like optical fiber core assembly, comprising:

a base layer;

a plurality of optical fiber cores arranged planarly on the base layer;

a plurality of position limiting portions limiting a plurality of positions of said plurality

of optical fibers;

an adhesive layer provided on said optical fiber cores; and

at least one tape layer for integrating said plurality of optical fiber cores into one body,

wherein said at least one tape layer has a tensile strength higher than an adhesive force of

said at least one tape layer to said plurality of optical fiber cores,

said optical fiber cores are compression bonded to the at least one tape layer, [[and]]

the adhesive layer is interposed between said optical fiber cores and the at least one tape

layer, and

the plurality of position limiting portions are provided on at least one of the adhesive

layer and the base layer.

2. (Previously Presented) The ribbon-like optical fiber core assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said tape layer includes a film base, and said adhesive layer.

3. (Previously Presented) The ribbon-like optical fiber core assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said at least one tape layer has a high flame retardancy.

4. (Currently amended) ~~[[The]]~~A method of separating a ribbon-like optical fiber core assembly ~~defined in Claim 1~~ into single cores, the fiber core assembly comprising:

a base layer;

a plurality of optical fiber cores arranged planarly on the base layer;

a plurality of position limiting portions limiting a plurality of positions of said plurality of optical fibers;

an adhesive layer provided on said optical fiber cores; and

at least one tape layer for integrating said plurality of optical fiber cores into one body,

wherein said at least one tape layer has a tensile strength higher than an adhesive force of said at least one tape layer to said plurality of optical fiber cores,

said optical fiber cores are compression bonded to the at least one tape layer,

the adhesive layer is interposed between said optical fiber cores and the at least one tape layer, and

the plurality of position limiting portions are provided on at least one of the adhesive layer and the base layer,

wherein the method comprises~~comprising the steps of:~~

bending said optical fiber core assembly to break said plurality of optical fiber cores at a predetermined breaking position; and

applying a pulling force on said at least one tape layer in a direction of detachment from said plurality of optical fiber cores to thereby peel said at least one tape layer up to a predetermined position.

5. (Currently amended) A film for a tape core assembly, comprising:

a flexible film integrating a plurality of optical fibers as a tape, and
a plurality of position limiting portions limiting a plurality of positions of said plurality of optical fibers,

wherein a pitch of arrangement of said plurality of position limiting portions at one end portion of said flexible film is different from a pitch of arrangement of said plurality of position limiting portions at the other end portion of said flexible film, and

said flexible film further comprises:

an adhesive layer, and

a base layer, the position limiting portions are provided on at least one of the adhesive layer and the base layer.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) A ribbon-like optical fiber core assembly according to claim 2, wherein gaps are formed between said plurality of optical fiber cores that are adjacent one another;

said adhesive layer is interposed in said gaps so that said gaps are filled with said adhesive layer; and

said at least one tape layer is provided so that said plurality of optical fiber cores and said adhesive layer are covered with said at least one tape layer.

8. (Currently amended) A method of producing a ribbon-like optical fiber core assembly, comprising the steps of:

arranging a plurality of optical fiber cores planarly at designated intervals, the plurality of optical fiber cores having a plurality of position limiting portions limiting a plurality of positions of said plurality of optical fibers cores; and

compression bonding said arranged optical fiber cores with at least one film base to interpose an adhesive layer between said arranged optical fiber cores and the at least one film base, the position limiting portions are provided on at least one of the adhesive layer and the film base.

9. (Previously Presented) A tape core assembly-containing connector comprising:
 - a ribbon-like optical fiber core assembly according to Claim 7, and
 - a multi-core connector connected with said ribbon-like optical fiber core assembly.
10. (Previously Presented) The tape core assembly-containing fiber array comprising:
 - a ribbon-like optical fiber core assembly according to Claim 7, and
 - a fiber array connected with said ribbon-like optical fiber core assembly.
11. (Previously Presented) The optical wiring system comprising:
 - a ribbon-like optical fiber core assembly according to Claim 7,
 - wherein said ribbon-like optical fiber core assembly is wired.
12. (Previously Presented) A tape core assembly-containing connector comprising:
 - a ribbon-like optical fiber core assembly formed by a method according to Claim 8, and

a multi-core connector connected with said ribbon-like optical fiber core assembly.

13. (Previously Presented) A tape core assembly-containing fiber array comprising:
a ribbon-like optical fiber core assembly formed by a method according to Claim 8, and
a fiber array connected with said ribbon-like optical fiber core assembly.

14. (Previously Presented) The optical wiring system comprising:
a ribbon-like optical fiber core assembly formed by a method according to Claim 8,
wherein said ribbon-like optical fiber core assembly is wired.